

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Little Snake Field Office
455 Emerson Street
Craig, CO 81625

DOCUMENTATION OF LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE AND NEPA ADEQUACY

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N010-2010-0131-DNA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER: COC074590

PROJECT NAME: CIG Meter Station

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: W1/2NW1/4, sec. 9, T.11N., R.94W., 6th PM, Moffat County, CO

APPLICANT: Colorado Interstate Gas Company

A. Describe the Proposed Action

Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) applied for a right-of-way to install a gas meter station, short pipeline and access road to tie in the Yates Big Hole Pipeline into CIG's existing 20" natural gas pipeline. The application requests construction of a 100' X 100' meter station, a 275' access road which comes off MCR92, and 450' of 4" diameter lateral tie-in to the existing Uintah 20" diameter natural gas pipeline. A 6' chain link fence with barb wire on top will surround the meter station. The total temporary workspace is 0.602 acres. The total permanent right-of-way requested is 0.873 acres. The construction period would last approximately one week. The construction workforce is expected to number 25 at the peak of construction. Several backhoes, pickup trucks, a water truck, and a bulldozer will be needed for the construction. All construction and vehicular traffic would be confined to the ROW corridor and existing road. All disturbed areas would be reshaped to original contour and reclaimed after pipeline installation.

The project area is located in grouse nesting habitat. Greater sage-grouse leks will be avoided by 2 miles between March 1 and June 30 to protect nesting grouse. There will be no exceptions to this timing limitation.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (ROD)

Date Approved: April 26, 1989

- Draft RMP/EIS February 1986
- Final RMP/EIS September 1986

- Colorado Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Final EIS January 1991

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- Environmental Assessment (EA) Record, Little Snake Field Office, DOI BLM CO N010 0109, (7/14/2010).

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current proposed action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document? Yes, the proposed action is basically the same action that has been previously analyzed in EA DOI BLM CO N010 0109. The proposed action consists of a buried gas pipeline and associated facilities to gather and transport gas from the Big Hole Unit Wells #1, 2, 3; the action was considered and analyzed in EA DOI BLM CO N010 0109.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values? Yes, the range of alternative is appropriate given the limited scope of this proposal. The area of the proposed action is located within a developed oil & gas pipeline corridor. The buried gas pipeline, road and meter station would be located adjacent to existing facilities and tie into an existing gas pipeline.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances? Yes, the existing analysis is still valid. The additional ROW is necessary to authorize CIG to construct a facility to measure gas from another oil & gas operator's pipeline before going into their existing transportation pipeline.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action? Yes, the methodology and analytical approach is still valid. The plan changed to accommodate a CIG request to construct an additional meter, short pipeline and access road to connect the Yates facility to the existing CIG 20" gas transportation pipeline.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action? Yes, the direct and indirect impacts of this proposed action are substantially unchanged from those identified in EA DOI BLM CO N010 0109. Gas pipeline installation for the Yates Big Hole Unit wells was analyzed; all that has changed is to grant CIG a right-of-way grant to install their meter facility and short pipeline and associated access road within the area that has already been analyzed.

6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Yes, the cumulative impacts that would result from the installation of the additional facility are substantially unchanged from those analyzed in EA DOI BLM CO N010 0109. The potential exists for future oil and gas development throughout the Big Hole Field. Currently numerous producing wells exist within a one-mile radius of the proposed gas pipeline.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action? Yes, the public involvement and interagency review associated with EA DOI BLM CO N010 0109 is adequate for this proposed action.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title	Resource Represented	Initials/Date
Shawn Wiser	Natural Resource Specialist	Air Quality	SW 08/25/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Floodplains, Prime/Unique Farmlands, Surface Water Quality	ELS 8/23/10
Ethan Morton	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Concerns	See Remarks
Louise McMinn	Realty Specialist	Environmental Justice	LM 8/20/10
Chris Rhyne	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive Non-native Species	CR 8/27/10
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Specialist	Sensitive Plants, T&E Plant	JHS 8/23/10
Gail Martinez	Wildlife Biologist	T&E Animal	GEM 8/26/10
Marty O'Mara	Petroleum Geologist	Ground Water Quality	EMO 8/30/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	ELS 8/23/10
Shane Dittlinger	Outdoor Recreation Specialist	WSA, W&S Rivers	KSD 8/23/10

STANDARDS:

Name	Title	Standard	Initials/Date
Gail Martinez	Wildlife Biologist	Animal Communities	GEM 8/26/10
Gail Martinez	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status, T&E Animal	GEM 8/26/10
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Specialist	Plant Communities	JHS 8/23/10
Hunter Seim	Rangeland Management Specialist	Special Status, T&E Plant	JHS 8/23/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Riparian Systems	ELS 8/23/10
Emily Spencer	Ecologist	Water Quality	ELS 8/23/10
Shawn Wiser	Natural Resource Specialist	Upland Soils	SW 08/25/10

Remarks:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Cultural resources, in this region of Colorado, range from late Paleo-Indian to Historic. For a general understanding of the cultural resources in this area of Colorado, see *An Overview of Prehistoric Cultural Resources, Little Snake Resource Area, Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resources Series, Number 20, *An Isolated Empire, A History of Northwestern Colorado*, Bureau of Land Management Colorado, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2 and *Colorado Prehistory: A Context for the Northern Colorado River Basin*, Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists.

Environmental Consequences: The proposed project, Big Hole Meter Station, has undergone a Class III cultural resource survey:

Metcalf, Michael

2010 El Paso Corporation's Big Hole Meter Station: A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory in Moffatt County, Colorado. (BLM 54.7.2010)

The survey identified no eligible sites to the National Register of Historic Places. A buffer of at least 30 meters was surveyed around the entire project area.

The following standard stipulations apply for this project:

1. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are encountered or uncovered during any project activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate vicinity of the find and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO) at (970) 826-5000. Within five working days, the AO will inform the operator as to:

- Whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the identified area can be used for project activities again; and
- Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) (Federal Register Notice, Monday, December 4, 1995, Vol. 60, No. 232) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone at (970) 826-5000, and with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

2. If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required.

Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation costs. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

Name of specialist and date: Ethan Morton 08/31/10

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Signature of Lead Specialist_____ Date_____

Signature of NEPA Coordinator_____ Date_____

Signature of the Authorizing Official_____ Date_____

Note: The signed Conclusion on this document is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision.